



ETRC Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR ETRC'S UPCOMING EVENTS!

1. September 20-21, Tuesday & Wednesday, Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's.
2. October 22-23, 2022: Sat/Sun, Fall Hunt Test, Ken Campbell's Lucky 7 Ranch
3. November 1-2, 2022: Tues/Wed, Master Only Hunt Test, Brian Caldwell's.
5. February 25, 2023, Saturday: Awards Banquet, Elections, General Business Meeting. Bearden Banquet Hall, Knoxville
6. April 1-2, 2023, Saturday & Sunday: Spring Hunt Test, Hiwassee WMA

Photo of the Month



Happy 4th of July!!!

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ETRC Past President Alan Bruhin Goes To 4H Camp



On Tuesday June 7th, Alan was invited to Greenville to present a program to 300 kids attending 4-H camp. This was part of a series of educational programming taking part during the week. He first covered basic obedience and training, then did a demonstration showing marking and running blinds. That was followed by questions and answers and letting the young people get up close to pet the dogs and throw some happy bumpers.

If anyone would be interested in getting involved working with young people and their dogs, you can contact your local Extension Office and talk to the 4-H Agents. They should be able to help you make contact with interested youth. It's worthwhile, and a good way to try to ensure that our sport can continue into the future!

Thanks, Alan, for taking the time to present this program, and for sending in this info for the newsletter! And thanks to Cin, Shine, and Jack as well!

Report on the Advanced Judges' Seminar

On Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, ETRC hosted an AKC Advanced Judges Seminar, with 16 attendees. The seminar was conducted by AKC representatives Jerry Mann and Greg Lister. The first day was in the conference room at the Comfort Inn in Athens.

The first topic covered was a brief history of hunt tests. An outgrowth of Field Trials, the first hunt tests were held in 1985. There were only 13 tests that first year, with 681 entries in total. Since that time, the program has expanded exponentially. In 2019, there were 450 events, with 43,923 entries; these figures represented a 7.6% increase from the year before. Obviously, the figures were much lower in 2020 because of the pandemic, but preliminary figures for 2021 show an even higher total than 2019.

Other topics included the mechanics of being asked to judge and accepting the invitation; discussion of judges responsibilities; and lengthy discussion of considerations in setting up a test. These included not only the factors to be included in tests at various levels, but working with the committee / land-owners, consideration of factors of terrain, sun, wind, cover, and sightlines, and more. The presenters went into considerable detail about different patterns of marks and what is appropriate for the different levels. This section finished up with discussions of the actual judging process and the mechanics of running the test.

We were shown a series of slides showing some of the many different breeds which can now run Retriever tests — all the Retriever breeds plus 15 addition non-Retriever breeds including the well-known Small Munsterlander, the Barbet, and the Drentsche Patrijshond.

The afternoon session was devoted to a discussion of the various abilities that are to be judged — Marking (of "Paramount Importance"), Style, Trainability, and Perseverance — and the sub-elements under each of these different abilities. This was possibly one of the most useful sections of the

ETRC Spring Hunt Test Report, Con't.

course for those of us that were attending not as judges or as future judges, but as handlers who want to learn more about what the judges are looking for. For instance, the lengthy discussion with examples concerning the area of the fall and how it changes, and the impact of handling on a mark was a real eye opener! Also, the wide variety of issues that are covered under the four “acquired” abilities that fall under trainability — steadiness, control, response and delivery.

The final topic of the day was scoring the various elements of a test, and how the numbers add up and divide to result in a pass or not.

The last three slides are reproduced below, because of the importance to all of us in the hunt test world of what AKC is thinking about doing with the regulations governing our sport:

Recent Regulation Changes

1. Deletion of the wording about having a test on Monday.
2. Requirement reduced to judging only one time below the level scheduled to judge.
3. A Seminar (either one) takes the place of the written test.
4. Increased numbers for limited Masters, 66-100-132-200.
5. Scratch fees better defined prior to closing.
6. If an individual handles more than 12 dogs they should have assistance present.
7. Entry Express must incorporate a human verification program.
8. Attending a Seminar or taking the written test is good for 4 years.
9. Jan 1st Distance between events reduced to 150 miles.
10. April 1st Clubs shall set aside 25% or 35% for Amateurs.

Major Issues From the Field From the AKC Field Rep's

- ◇ Judges not judging to the standard.
- ◇ Judges not qualified to judge.
- ◇ Intimidation on the Honor. Honor not part of the test, Judges not watching the Honor Dog, varies by Region.
- ◇ Excessive handling on marks.
- ◇ Lack of trainability on blinds.
- ◇ Judges not filling out score sheets or doing diagrams.
- ◇ Improper design of a walk-up mark. Gun station should not be visible at all even with a holding blind.
- ◇ Tests not designed to the standards.

The RJTAC continues to evaluate many proposed regulations changes proposed by the Hunt Test Community.

Some of the regulations changes being considered are:

1. At least one live flyer must be used in a Junior test.
2. Disallow interrupted marks/blinds.
3. Prohibit wearing a microphone on the line by a handler.
4. AKC policy on Open Carry.
5. Defining a number of clean series.
6. The issue of two judges from the same household judging the same event.
7. Judges running a test over the old marks from a previous series.
8. Establish a waiting list for scratches.
9. Increase % of entries for workers.
10. The inconsistent judging & poor tests.
11. No talking to honor dog at the Masters.
12. Judging people you have a professional relationship with.
13. Judges taking the birds from the handler.

The second day was out in the field at Cory Smith's. Participants interested in helping with test setup met there at 7:30 a.m. and had the two series tentatively set up by 9:00 a.m. After review by the AKC reps and making the changes indicated (mostly involving hiding the blinds and gunner stations behind more brush and trees), we were ready to go at 9:30. We had dead ducks, live flyers, gunners, and bird techs.

Three dogs were run through the test at each level on the first series, which comprised three marks (one a live flyer) and two blinds. We started with Master, then modified the test slightly for Senior and then again for Junior. Dogs run at the Master level in the first series were Maggie with Cory Smith; Bauer with Cory Smith, and one other dog that I don't remember. Running at Senior were Kaypesh with Peter Torok, Woodie with Lois Luthenauer, and Pearl with Cheryl McNutt. Junior dogs were Kaypesh and Peter again, Cheryl with a second dog, and Lois with Max.

After lunch, the second series was on water, in Cory's newly expanded and very nice pond. Only two dogs were run at each level to save time (and it was getting quite hot!). Some of the same dogs ran again at different levels, but as I don't have a complete list I'll just say thanks to everyone who came and ran their dogs!

Special thanks to Alan Bruhin who arranged the entire seminar, including making hotel arrangements, liaising with AKC, and arranging for breakfast pastries, snacks and drinks for both days as well as the delicious Buddy's Barbecue lunch on Saturday. Thanks also to Cory for the use of his farm on Sunday, to Jeff Rader for rounding up one of his sons and a friend to be gunners for us (they were awesome and didn't miss a single duck!), Jim Pearce for buying the supplies and laying everything out for Sunday's lunch; and to all the participants who came.

The total seminar cost \$1,361.04, including AKC costs, food supplies, and one bird tech, and including the registration fees for the three non-members who attended. This cost will be partially offset by the \$600 grant that we were awarded from the MNRC, when that is received. Well worth it for the club members who attended! We all learned a lot!



Scene from the Judges Seminar at Cory's on Sunday morning, June 26. Left to right: Bob Smith, Maggie the dog with Cory Smith, Mike Evans, John Inabinet's knees, Mike Smith (with ETRC tee), AKC rep Greg Lister, Cathi Blackburn, Barb Reed, Jim Pearce, AKC rep Jerry Mann, Cheryl McNutt, Alan Bruhin, Jeff Rader, and Peter Torok.

Announcements and Brags

A Plate and a fancy bib for Cin and Alan Bruhin at the Master Amateur for 2022! Way to go, Team!



Recent Board Actions

Following the conclusion of the Judges' seminar on June 26, there was an informal board meeting to discuss a few important items coming up. Since there was not a quorum, on the following day there were some email exchanges and discussions, and a formal Board vote approving the following items:

1. TWRA has decided to move up the turkey hunting season at Hiwassee by two weeks, starting next year, and we have lost access to the memorial day weekend for our Spring Hunt test. They offered us the first weekend in April, which would be April 1-2 in 2023. Other dates available are in March, which would not only be extremely iffy / cold weather, but also there may not be adequate water that early in the year with the way the local dams operate to draw down water during the winter. The Board voted to accept the April dates, which will be our new dates from now on for our spring test.
2. The Annual Club Picnic and Training day is now set for September 10 at Cory Smith's farm. Details of whether this will be training day, a pro-conducted seminar, or a club trial are still to be discussed. If you have any preferences or suggestions, please let any of the board members know your thoughts.
3. We need 4 or 5 new dark-colored buckets to be used at the line for collecting ducks. AKC Rules say we aren't supposed to be using white buckets — whoops! As a funny aside, one of the slides shown by AKC at the Judges' Seminar showed a test setup with a shiny white bucket at the line, so we're not the only ones slow to catch on to the bucket color in the new Rules. The Board has approved the purchase of these buckets before our next Hunt Test in September.
4. Jim Pearce has been authorized to purchase new Map Gas cylinders to the extent we have empty ones, again before the next Hunt Test.
5. Lois has been authorized to purchase more ETRC hunt club shirts in both long sleeve and short sleeve and in multiple sizes / colors/ materials for sale to club members and the general public.

Peter Torok and Kaypesh at the Advanced Judges Seminar, where Kaypesh ran Junior, Senior, and Master!



Youth Program



2018 Award Recipients, Cade & Ivan Chambers

The Luthenauer Young Handler program is entering its sixth year. Kids who are interested in working in retriever sports are encouraged to join; check out the website for rules and an application form at http://www.etrclub.org/etrclub_youth_program.htm.

There is no application fee; if the applicant is not already part of a family membership, their membership fee will be paid for by the Luthenauer fund. The program will reimburse AKC Hunt test fees and any fees for other ETRC events such as club trials.

Yearly awards include a perpetual trophy along with a plaque to keep, and participation award for everyone in the program.

ETRC Membership

Membership in ETRC is a bargain! The cost is \$25 for a single person or a family (one vote). Both new member and renewal forms are available online at <http://www.etrclub.org/join.htm> — just cut and paste the link, print it off, and send it along with your check to:

Karen Edwards, Secretary /Treasurer, 254 Babbs Road, Lenoir City, TN 37771.

Membership includes electronic copies of the newsletter, special announcements, eligibility to attend all ETRC Sponsored events, and consideration for end of the year awards. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make friends with like-minded dog people and learn more about our favorite sport. We are one of the most active Retriever clubs in the country — and have another great year lined up in 2022 with 5 AKC hunt tests, club trials, seminars, training days, and more.

The membership year runs from March 1 to February 28/29th; people who join after November 1 are also paid up for the following year.

Newsletter Info

The ETRC newsletter is published monthly, as close to the 1st of the month as we can get it together. Send us your test results, new titles, litter info, new dogs, dog-related jobs and services, death notices, interesting articles, and any brags you care to share, along with pictures! Deadline is the 26th of the month but we can sometimes sneak something in a little late.... Send items to: Karen Edwards (edwardskc@gmail.com).

Numbering System: When I first took over the newsletter, I just continued on with the volume # from the last issue, then upped it by one every year. But, it makes no sense, and doesn't reflect how many years of newsletters we have anyway. So beginning with the January 2020 issue, the volume number is the last two digits of the year, in Roman numeral format — so this is now Volume XXII (for 2022).